THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE) : (a) According to Reserve Bank of India (RBI) the total outstanding advances to agriculture of commercial banks, cooperatives and regional rural banks were of the order of Rs. 26,000 crores as at the end of June, 1989 (latest available).

(b) Matters relating to rural credit remain under the constant review of Government and Reserve Bank of India and the proposals of the State Governments when received are also taken into consideration.

Commission for Selection of Judges to the Supreme Court and High Courts

302. CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to set up a panel or Commission for the selection of judges to the Supreme Court and the High Courts; and

(b) if so, what are the details relating to the constitution of the Commission and by when it is likely to start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF HE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI) : (a) and (b) The Government intend to set up a High Level Judicial Commission for the appointment of Judges in the High Courts and the Supreme Court and for the transfer of Judges from one High Court to another. The details are being worked out. It is not possible to indicate by when the Commission is likely to start functioning.

Filling up of Vacant Posts of Junior Proof Readers in the Central Water Commission

303. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 3039 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 10th August, 1989 and state :

(a) whether it is a fact that against the reserved vacancies of Junior Proof Readers, candidates of un-reserved categories on *ad hoc* basis/daily wages have been appointed in the Central Water Commission ; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken by the concerned authorities to fill up the said reserved posts after June, 1989?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Since one SC candidate was found suitable against ST vacancy, the possibility of exchanging the vacancy reserved for ST for being filled by appointment of a SC candidate was explored. This has been found to be not permissible.

Alleged Political Interference in the Appointment of Judges

304. SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the former Chief Justice of India has expressed dismay over political interference in the appointments of Supreme Court and High Court Judges recently as reported in the 'Independent' an English daily published from Bombay dated the 30th January 1990 ; and